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CSNET Liaison Activities with Other Networks
L. H. Landweber
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There are three categories of activity:

  1. negotiations with DARPA
  2. bilateral discussions and gateway implementation
  3. international meetings

1. Over the past year, we have had ongoing discussions with Bob Kahn of DARPA regarding guidelines for CSNET relaying of electronic mail to and from non-CSNET (domestic and international) sites. A copy of the agreement which is now required of all such sites is attached. The principal conditions are a) no relaying, by the non-CSNET sites, of data (mail, files) originating on the DoD Internet, to individuals or sites not covered by the agreement; b) no charge to DoD Internet sites for mail between them and non-CSNET sites; and c) designation of a person responsible for enforcing the agreement.

2. There have been discussions with groups in Canada, Israel, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, and France. Requests for information have also come from Japan, Malaysia, Australia and Korea. In addition, there have been discussions with representatives of Bitnet, Mailnet and EARN.

Non-CSNET sites (other than those in Canada) will not pay CSNET dues but will be responsible for all communication costs (both directions) for data flowing between them and the Phonenet relays. The following is a summary of current status of discussion with such groups.

  Canada: The Canadian universities have been admitted as CSNET members. The CIC is now handling arrangements with them. At present, they connect via Phonenet. In the near future, a number of these schools will have Datapac hosts running TCP/IP and will be able to communicate directly with CSNET Telenet hosts including the Phonenet relays. Gerald Neufeld of UBC is developing an X.25 to IP VAX package to enable this type of connection.

  Israel: Hebrew University has installed MMDF and is polling the Phonenet relay at BBN via the Israeli X.25 net and Telenet. They will soon be providing gateway services for the other Israeli universities. Eventually, they will install an X.25 line and run TCP/IP on the gateway. This will enable direct communication with CSNET Telenet hosts including the Phonenet relays. A copy of the agreement between CSNET and the Israeli National Council for Research and Development is attached.

Sweden: The Swedish COM system in Stockholm has a gateway to CSNET via MIT-Multics as a result of their membership in Mailnet. In addition, a group at Chalmers University plans to provide TCP/IP gateway services to CSNET. They are waiting for delivery of BSD 4.2. This software has apparently been delayed because of restrictions on export of encryption software. They plan to use the UBC IP to X.25 software when it is ready.

Norway: Relevant researchers in Norway have access to CSNET via either COM or NTA-VAX. The latter is a Satnet host. There are no immediate plans for a separate gateway to CSNET.

Germany, Italy, France: Preliminary discussions are underway.

U.K. : University College-London presently provides gateway services to the DoD Internet for many U.K. researchers. We hope to begin discussion of direct CSNET to SERC-NET (Science and Engineering Research Council) links in the near future. Mailnet has recently announced membership of several sites in England.

Switzerland: Gateway establishment was discussed last Summer with representatives of CERN. They have now decided to participate in the European Bitnet, EARN.

Bitnet, Mailnet, EARN: A CSNET/Bitnet gateway will soon be established. MIT-MULTICS already provides a Mailnet/CSNET gateway. CUNY will soon be operating a gateway Between Bitnet and EARN.

It is interesting to note that defacto connectivity between all of the major mail networks already exists. Knowledge of addressing and routing requirements is all that is needed to communicate with sites on the various networks throughout the world.

3. International liaison meetings were held in London in October 1982 and in Oslo in July 1983. A follow-up meeting, hosted by the French Agence de l´Informatique will be held this July in Paris. These meetings have enabled timely exchange of technical information and have significantly aided in establishment of the various gateways. Note that representatives of Mailnet, Bitnet, CSNET, and NSF will attend the meeting in Paris.